Association in Sri Lanka Assisting Pakistan over Kashmir Issue

218. SHRI S. MADAVAN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the activities of an association in Sri Lanka supporting Pakistan and calling for freedom to Kashmir from India;

(b) whether it is a fact that some passengers arrived from Colombo recently had Afghan Passports with a forged visa for entry into India; and

(c) what steps are being taken to prevent infiltration of Pakistan trained militants from Sri Lanka into India for subversive activities?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DINESH SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir. The Government is aware of reports that the Sri Lanka-Pakistan Friendship Association in Sri Lanka recently passed a resolution supporting Pakistan Government's call to observe a strike on February 5, 1994 on the Kashmir issue.

(b) Yes, Sir. Seven Afghan nationals holding forged Indian visas arrived at Madras from Colombo recently. The immigration authorities at Madras airport detected the forged visas and deported these persons back to Colombo.

(c) The Government exercises full vigilance and takes all necessary precautions to prevent any such infiltration.

Availability of Gas from Off-Shore Tapti Structure

*219. SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the latest assessment of the availability of gas from off-shore Tapti structure is such that both the requirement in meeting the shortfall at Hazira and for the proposed power plant at Pipavav can be met;

(b) whether it is cheaper to bring the Tapti gas to be closed Landfall point of Saurashtra and then carry the gas on land to Hazira; and

(c) by when Government of India will take a final decision in this matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH SHARMA): (a) The entire gas produced in the Mid Tapti and South Tapti fields required to be taken to Hazira to meet the existing commitments.

(b) The developers of the fields will decide the pipeline route in consultation with the Government after taking into account the comparative costs of alternative pipeline alignments.

(c) The decision to bring the gas to Hazira has been taken.

पान मसालों का स्वास्थ्य के लिए हानिकारक होना

*220. श्री शंकर दयाल सिंह : क्या स्वास्थ्य और परिवार कल्याण मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या "पान पराग" और ऐसे अन्य मसालों को स्वास्थ्य के लिये हानिकारक पाया गया है ; और

(ख) यदि हां, तो देश में ऐसे उत्पादों की बिक्री रोकने के लिये क्या कार्यवाही की गई है ?

स्वास्थ्य और परिवार कल्याण मंत्री (श्री बी० शंकरानंद) : (क) भारतीय आयुर्विज्ञान अनुसंधान परिषद ने सूचित किया है कि पान मसाला में उत्परिवर्तजनता होती है ।

(ख) खाद्य अपमिश्रण निवारण नियम, 1955 के अन्तर्गत पान-मसाला के प्रत्येक पैकेट पर निम्नलिखित चेतावनी देना आवश्यक है:

"पान मसाला चबाना स्वास्थ्य के लिये हानिकारक हो सकता है"। आकाशवाणी और दूरदर्शन पर पान-मसाला के विज्ञापन पर प्रतिबंध है।

Critical state of Ecology and Environment

@2247. SHRI SOM PAL: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the views expressed by experts and researchers at the 68th Annual Meeting of the Association of Indian Universities held in New Delhi recently as reported by the Indian Express of the 20th December, 1993, alleging that valuable information churned out by researchers on critical state of ecology and environment is not being made use of by Government while formulating its policies and programmes; and

(b) if so, what is being done to utilise the studies and their results for saving and improving environment?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH)- (a) and (b) The Government are aware of the report. It is incorrect to say that the results of research are not being utilised while formulating policies and programmes of the Government. The research results are communicated to the concerned State Governments and user agencies for information and appropriate utilisation for saving and improving environment.

"Denudation of Forests in Darjeeling Hills"

2248. SHRI RATNA BAHADUR RAI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that a large number of rare spices of flora and fauna are on the verge of extinction in the Himalayan region of Darjeeling hills due to forest denudation;

(b) if so, what measures are being taken to protect this; and

(c) if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) There have been some reports of destruction of forests in the Darjeeling hills with an adverse impact on the flora and fauna.

(b) The State Government have been requested to ensure that such activities are stopped.

(c) Does not arise.

बिहार के आदिवासियों पर वन-नीति का प्रभाव

2249. श्री एस०एस० अहलुवालिया : क्या पर्यावरण और वन मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या सरकार को इस बात की जानकारी है कि उसकी वर्तमान वन-नीति के कारण बिहार के आदिवासी, जिनकी आय का मुख्य स्रोत वनोत्पाद है, बुरी तरह से प्रभावित हुए हैं, क्योंकि वन विभाग के कर्मचारी उन्हें वनों से जीविकोपार्जन नहीं करने देते हैं ;

(ख) यदि हां, तो क्या सरकार बिहार के आदिवासियों को वनों की उपज, जैसे फल, फूल और जड़ी बूटियां (औषधीय पादप) इत्यादि एकत्र कर तथा उन्हें बेच कर जीविकोपार्जन करने की अनुमति देने के लिये अपनी वन-नीति में आवश्यक परिवर्तन करने का विचार रखती है ; और

(ग) यदि नहीं, तो इसके क्या कारण हैं।

@Previously Unstarred Questions 1526, transferred from 3rd March,